

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
 EDITOR

## Rabies in California

During the past 15 years, 1922 to 1937, 12,926 cases of rabies have been reported to the California State Department of Public Health. Their distribution, by animals, is as follows:

|               |        |                |        |
|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Dogs -----    | 12,105 | Mules -----    | 10     |
| Cats -----    | 256    | Foxes -----    | 2      |
| Cows -----    | 319    | Monkeys -----  | 2      |
| Horses -----  | 30     | Rat -----      | 1      |
| Coyotes ----- | 25     | Squirrel ----- | 1      |
| Goats -----   | 43     | Raccoons ----- | 2      |
| Hogs -----    | 12     | Rabbits -----  | 2      |
| Sheep -----   | 92     | Unknown -----  | 19     |
| Skunks -----  | 5      |                |        |
|               |        |                | 12,926 |

|                       |     |                   |        |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------|--------|
| San Francisco -----   | 5   | Sonoma -----      | 12     |
| San Joaquin -----     | 253 | Stanislaus -----  | 193    |
| San Luis Obispo ----- | 10  | Tehama -----      | 1      |
| San Mateo -----       | 11  | Tulare -----      | 150    |
| Santa Barbara -----   | 20  | Tuolumne -----    | 2      |
| Santa Clara -----     | 40  | Ventura -----     | 35     |
| Santa Cruz -----      | 20  | Yolo -----        | 14     |
| Shasta -----          | 7   | Yuba -----        | 5      |
| Siskiyou -----        | 14  | California* ----- | 2      |
| Solano -----          | 2   |                   |        |
|                       |     |                   | 12,926 |

\* Dog brought into California from Denver, Colorado. Raccoon brought to Imperial County from Mexico.

NOTE.—Only those counties that have reported cases are listed.

The distribution of these 12,926 cases, by counties, is as follows:

|                    |      |                      |     |
|--------------------|------|----------------------|-----|
| Alameda -----      | 125  | Marin -----          | 76  |
| Amador -----       | 2    | Mariposa -----       | 1   |
| Butte -----        | 1    | Merced -----         | 54  |
| Calaveras -----    | 3    | Modoc -----          | 95  |
| Contra Costa ----- | 37   | Mono -----           | 1   |
| El Dorado -----    | 6    | Monterey -----       | 124 |
| Fresno -----       | 226  | Napa -----           | 7   |
| Humboldt -----     | 11   | Nevada -----         | 7   |
| Imperial -----     | 244  | Orange -----         | 234 |
| Inyo -----         | 6    | Placer -----         | 12  |
| Kern -----         | 92   | Plumas -----         | 38  |
| Kings -----        | 101  | Riverside -----      | 108 |
| Lake -----         | 1    | Sacramento -----     | 83  |
| Lassen -----       | 30   | San Benito -----     | 24  |
| Los Angeles -----  | 9377 | San Bernardino ----- | 277 |
| Madera -----       | 84   | San Diego -----      | 643 |

### HUMAN CASES

Since 1899, when rabies first appeared in California, 86 human beings have died of this disease. Of these, 30 had received the Pasteur treatment for the prevention of rabies. It must be remembered that this is a fatal disease and that no one, who has once shown symptoms of rabies, has ever recovered. It is one hundred per cent fatal.

The Pasteur treatment, in order to be effective, depends upon several factors, such as prompt administration following bite of an infected animal and location of bite, those near the larger nerve centers being much more serious. Cauterization of the wound with fuming nitric acid, which is the only reliable cauterizing agent, is also of prime importance in preventing the development of rabies.

Of the thirty fatal cases in which the Pasteur treatment was given, 13 had received no cautery. In 9 cases wounds were cauterized with nitric acid, 4 with iodine, 2 with carbolic acid, 1 with argyrol and 1 with silver nitrate. The records show that in only 9 out of 30 cases were wounds cauterized with nitric acid. Of the remaining 56 cases out of the total that have occurred since 1899, only 5 had received cauterization with nitric acid.

Since the location of the wound is of great importance in rabies it is interesting to note that in these 30 decedents, 16 had been bitten on the head and face, 7 on the hands, 1 on the wrist and face, 2 on the arm or wrist, 1 on the legs, 1 on the foot and wrist and in two cases the location of the bite was not recorded.

In three cases treatment was started the same day that the patient was bitten and in 10 cases treatment was started five or more days after having been bitten.

Regardless of the location of the wound, 76 per cent of these cases, for which the incubation period is known, had incubation periods of 60 days or less. In no case was the incubation period less than 10 days. In only three cases did it extend over a period longer than six months.

While the Pasteur treatment is ineffective in a small proportion of cases, particularly those involving severe bites about the head, face and arms, it is generally effective and under improved methods of administration far better results are obtained now than were possible when the method was in its infancy. In the Pasteur L'Institut, Paris, where more than 500 patients receive the treatment each year, a fatality seldom occurs. In those cases where the lacerations occur on the head and face the infection sometimes develops more rapidly than immunity can develop through the Pasteur treatment.

The drinking of milk from tuberculous cows was formerly a rather frequent source of infection in children. For many years the cows all over the country have been given the tuberculin test and all those found to be infected by tuberculosis have been killed, so the risk from this source has been very greatly reduced and is now rapidly approaching the vanishing point. I am sorry to have to state that we in California are far behind most of the states in this respect, but after much effort a bill was passed by the last legislature providing funds for clearing up the herds of this state, and we expect in the next two years to take our rightful place among the rest of the states as having the minimum number of tuberculous cows. —Carl R. Howson, M.D., Los Angeles.

### TUBERCULOSIS IN A MEXICAN FAMILY

Tuberculosis case histories that involve whole families have been comparatively scarce during the past decade. To be sure, under certain conditions, when proper hygienic procedures are not followed, a whole family may become infected with this communicable disease and fatal results may follow. It is to the credit of organized public health, however, that such instances have become far less common. Occasionally, however, an instance of this sort is uncovered today, particularly among Mexican families in California.

Poverty, bad housing, close contact with infectious cases, lack of proper food, ignorance, and corollary attributes are largely responsible. This vicious circle of factors, known for so many years and combated, has by no means been eliminated. Its force has been reduced considerably but its existence can not be denied.

The story of tuberculosis in a Mexican family of Imperial County has recently been reported by a public health nurse and it is reminiscent of stories that were common, in the native American stock, twenty-five years ago.

Senor and senora came from Mexico to California in 1915. Winters were spent in Imperial Valley and summers in San Bernardino County. They harvested agricultural crops and eventually made a small down-payment on a two room shack with a joint privy. Their existence was comfortable and almost every year there was an increase in the family, until 1932, when senor contracted tuberculosis and died in the county hospital. He left a widow and eight children ranging in age from a 16 year-old married daughter to an unborn child that arrived two months after his death.

The married daughter showed symptoms of tuberculosis at about the same time and after attempting home care and receiving intermittent hospital care she died at the age of 18. The following data pertaining to the other seven children present a record of the havoc that tuberculosis may cause in an under-privileged family. The ages given are approximate, as of January, 1938:

M., son, 19—In last stages of tuberculosis, refuses hospital treatment. He is the bread-winner of the family.

A., daughter, 16—Symptoms suspicious of tuberculosis found, 1938.

C., son—Died of tuberculosis, 1937.

E., daughter—Died of tuberculosis, 1935.

P., son, 11—Positive diagnosis of tuberculosis, 1938.

A., daughter, 9—Positive diagnosis of tuberculosis, 1938.

L., son, 7—Positive diagnosis of tuberculosis, 1938.

**DR. McDONALD HEADS S. C. P. H. A.**

The annual meeting of the Southern California Public Health Association was held January 31 in Orange. Dr. K. H. Sutherland, health officer of Orange County and retiring president of the association, was host. More than 125 individuals attended the banquet at which the guest-speaker, Dr. K. F. Meyer, medical director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, presented an illustrated talk on his observations in Europe during the past summer.

Dr. G. E. McDonald, city health officer of Long Beach, was installed as president of the association for the current year. Dr. R. L. Kaufman, district health officer, Whittier, was elected secretary-treasurer. Following is the complete roster of officers elected for 1938:

G. E. McDonald, M.D., president.

Alex M. Lesem, M.D., president-elect.

Wilton L. Halverson, M.D., D.P.H., first vice president.

C. Morley Sellery, M.D., second vice president.

R. L. Kaufman, M.D., C.P.H., secretary-treasurer.

The executive committee for 1938 is as follows:

K. H. Sutherland, M.D., W. L. Halverson, M.D., D.P.H., Sven R. Lokrantz, M.D., J. P. Bushong, D.V.M., G. J. Telfer, M.D., Lillian Simpson, R.N., Eunice Lamona, P.H.N., H. I. Vener, M.D., T. D. Beckwith, Ph.D., Donald G. Davy, M.D., Alex M. Lesem, M.D., R. V. Stone, D.V.M.

**WESTERN BRANCH TO MEET IN PORTLAND**

The Western Branch of the American Public Health Association will hold its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, June 6, 7 and 8, 1938. Headquarters will be in the Multnomah Hotel. Because of the fact that the Portland Rose Festival will be held June 8 to 11, it is important that hotel reservations be made early.

Public health subjects of special interest and importance to western public health workers will be discussed by speakers of national and western prominence. The secretary of the branch, Dr. W. P. Shepard, 600 Stockton Street, San Francisco, or Dr. William Levin, Oregon State Department of Public Health, 816 Oregon Building, Portland, will be glad to answer inquiries relative to the meeting.

When you meet with a fact opposed to a prevailing theory, you should adhere to the fact and abandon the theory, even when the latter is supported by great authorities and is generally adopted.—Claude Bernard.

**DISEASES REPORTABLE IN CALIFORNIA****REPORTABLE ONLY**

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| ANTHRAX                | MALARIA*                     |
| BERIBERI               | PELLAGRA                     |
| BOTULISM               | PNEUMONIA (Lobar)            |
| COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA | RELAPSING FEVER              |
| DENGUE*                | ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER |
| FLUKE INFECTION        | SEPTIC SORE THROAT           |
| FOOD POISONING         | TETANUS                      |
| GLANDERS***            | TRICHINOSIS                  |
| HOOKWORM               | TULAREMIA                    |
| JAUNDICE (Infectious)  | UNDULANT FEVER               |

**ISOLATION OF PATIENT**

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| CHICKENPOX            | OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM |
| DYSENTERY (Amoebic)   | PSITTACOSIS           |
| DYSENTERY (Bacillary) | RABIES (Animal)       |
| ERYSIPELAS            | RABIES (Human)        |
| GERMAN MEASLES        | SYPHILIS              |
| GONOCOCCUS INFECTION  | TRACHOMA              |
| INFLUENZA             | TUBERCULOSIS          |
| MEASLES               | WHOOPING COUGH        |
| MUMPS                 |                       |

**QUARANTINABLE**

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CHOLERA***                   | SCARLET FEVER                 |
| DIPHTHERIA                   | SMALLPOX                      |
| ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)      | TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER |
| LEPROSY                      | TYPHUS FEVER                  |
| MENINGITIS (Epidemic)        | YELLOW FEVER***               |
| PLAGUE***                    |                               |
| ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS |                               |

\* Patients should be kept in mosquito-free room.  
\*\*\* Cases to be reported to State Department of Public Health by telephone or telegraph and special instructions will be issued.

**CHANGES AMONG HEALTH OFFICERS**

Dr. A. O. Skancky has been appointed city health officer of San Bruno to succeed Dr. F. Holmes Smith, who recently met a tragic death. Dr. Smith had served his community for many years and was formerly Health Officer of San Mateo County.

Dr. Martha R. Allen is city health officer of Fairfax, having succeeded Dr. Bernard J. Conroy.

The city of Indio has transferred its public health administration to the Riverside County Health Department of which Dr. W. A. Jones is the head. Dr. R. M. Gray, formerly city health officer of Indio, has served in that capacity for many years.

**SANTA CRUZ JOINS HEALTH UNIT**

The city of Santa Cruz has transferred the administration of its public health affairs to the Santa Cruz County Health Department, of which Dr. John D. Fuller is County Health Officer. The full-time county health unit has been in operation only a few months and the inclusion of Santa Cruz within the organization will provide full-time public health service for the entire county with the exception of Watsonville.

## MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending  
February 26, 1938

## Chickenpox

931 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 10, Berkeley 18, Oakland 73, San Leandro 11, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Crescent City 10, Eldorado County 2, Fresno County 15, Fresno 2, Willows 12, Imperial County 14, Calexico 11, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Delano 3, Los Angeles County 92, Arcadia 1, Azusa 15, Beverly Hills 2, Burbank 8, Compton 1, Covina 2, Culver City 1, Glendale 18, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 4, Long Beach 39, Los Angeles 92, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 6, Pomona 1, Redondo 1, Santa Monica 13, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 6, South Gate 4, Signal Hill 2, Bell 1, Gardena 2, Madera County 11, Los Banos 2, Monterey County 3, Orange County 15, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 1, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 5, Sea Beach 1, Laguna Beach 1, Placer County 2, Riverside County 8, Corona 5, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 29, Coronado 24, Escondido 2, National City 1, San Diego 60, San Francisco 64, San Joaquin County 22, Stockton 12, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo County 5, Daly City 1, Redwood City 1, South San Francisco 3, Atherton 1, San Carlos 1, Santa Barbara County 18, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 31, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 5, San Jose 1, Solano County 1, Benicia 1, Fairfield 1, Stanislaus County 10, Ceres 6, Modesto 6, Turlock 3, Tehama County 2, Red Bluff 2, Tulare County 14, Exeter 11, Lindsay 1, Porterville 1, Visalia 2, Ventura County 4, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 2, Ventura 1, Yolo County 4.

## Diphtheria

37 cases: Hayward 1, Oakland 4, Richmond 8, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 10, Fairfax 2, Santa Ana 2, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 2, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Jose 1.

## German Measles

16 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Calexico 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 3, Pasadena 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Palo Alto 1.

## Influenza

113 cases: Kern County 42, Los Angeles County 6, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 30, Whittier 4, Napa 3, Orange County 3, Riverside 1, San Diego County 2, San Diego 2, Santa Barbara County 3, Sonoma County 1, Tehama County 5, Red Bluff 7, Tulare County 2.

## Measles

305 cases: Alameda 1, Oakland 2, San Leandro 2, Fresno County 11, Imperial County 2, Kern County 44, Los Angeles County 4, Compton 1, Glendora 2, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 10, Pasadena 1, Pomona 9, Redondo 3, Santa Monica 1, Madera County 8, Orange County 6, Anaheim 2, Orange 2, La Habra 1, Placentia 4, Riverside County 7, Hemet 4, San Bernardino County 11, Ontario 1, San Diego 20, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Cruz 1, Stanislaus County 4, Turlock 5, Tulare County 78, Exeter 23, Lindsay 2, Porterville 3, Visalia 1, Ventura County 6, Oxnard 4, Santa Paula 7, Ventura 1.

## Mumps

517 cases: Alameda 5, Berkeley 1, Oakland 59, Contra Costa County 8, El Cerrito 1, Fresno County 37, Fresno 11, Sanger 13, Humboldt County 1, Calexico 2, Kern County 19, Bakersfield 1, Tehachapi 27, Los Angeles County 19, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 3, Compton 1, Glendale 8, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 26, Los Angeles 25, Montebello 2, Pomona 3, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 2, Madera County 7, Madera 11, Monterey County 1, Napa 1, Nevada County 1, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 2, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 7, Ontario 2, San Diego County 21, Escondido 4, National City 5, San Diego 9, San Francisco 29, San Joaquin County 31, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Barbara 7, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 35, Santa Cruz County 1, Dixon 6, Sonoma County 7, Stanislaus County 11, Modesto 5, Oakdale 4, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 12, Porterville 5, Davis 1, Woodland 1.

## Pneumonia (Lobar)

82 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 3, Richmond 1, Los Angeles County 12, Burbank 2, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 31, Montebello 1, Pasadena 3, Redondo 1, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 1, Gardena 1, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Anaheim 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento 5, San Diego County 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 5, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 1, Winters 1.

## Scarlet Fever

199 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 4, Contra Costa County 2, El Cerrito 1, Richmond 4, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Glenn County 1, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Delano 1, Los Angeles County 18, Alhambra 2, Burbank 3, Compton 2, Culver City 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 39, Pasadena 2, Pomona 1, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 2, South Gate 1, Signal Hill 1, Madera County 8, Madera 1, Los Banos 1, Monterey County 4, Salinas 1, Grass

Valley 1, Orange County 7, Huntington Beach 2, Santa Ana 2, Seal Beach 1, Placer County 1, Riverside County 3, Corona 1, Perris 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 3, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 1, Redlands 2, Rialto 2, San Diego County 3, Chula Vista 2, Oceanside 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 15, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 1, Daly City 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Gilroy 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 4, Benicia 1, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 1, Turlock 1, Tulare County 2, Exeter 1, Yolo County 2.

## Smallpox

19 cases: Calexico 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 2, Signal Hill 2, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 3, Tulare County 3, Exeter 4.

## Typhoid Fever

12 cases: Imperial County 2, Kern County 3, Anaheim 1, Riverside County 2, San Francisco 1, Stanislaus County 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 1.

## Whooping Cough

392 cases: Alameda 3, Berkeley 13, Oakland 25, San Leandro 2, Contra Costa County 11, Martinez 3, Pittsburg 1, Richmond 6, Fresno County 13, Fresno 2, Kern County 8, Lake County 2, Los Angeles County 17, Alhambra 2, Burbank 3, Culver City 2, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 14, Pasadena 3, Lynwood 3, Signal Hill 1, Madera County 8, Monterey County 3, King City 3, Salinas 4, Orange County 1, Anaheim 2, Brea 1, Seal Beach 3, La Habra 1, Placer County 1, Corona 3, Sacramento County 5, Sacramento 42, North Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 7, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 18, Chula Vista 3, Coronado 1, Escondido 2, La Mesa 10, National City 4, San Diego 26, San Francisco 34, San Joaquin County 10, Stockton 13, Redwood City 3, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 6, Palo Alto 5, Solano County 1, Suisun 1, Vacaville 1, Turlock 2, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 4, Ventura County 2, Fillmore 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 13.

## Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Arcata 1, Kern County 1.

## Dysentery (Amoebic)

2 cases: Long Beach 1, San Luis Obispo 1.

## Dysentery (Bacillary)

One case: Tulare County.

## Poliomyelitis

One case: Los Angeles.

## Trachoma

4 cases: Riverside County.

## Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case: Palo Alto.

## Paratyphoid Fever

One case: Los Angeles.

## Food Poisoning

6 cases: San Francisco.

## Undulant Fever

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, Sonoma County 1.

## Septic Sore Throat

One case: Lompoc.

## Rabies (Animal)

39 cases: Los Angeles County 5, Arcadia 1, Glendale 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 19, Pasadena 2, Gustine 1, Anaheim 1, Sacramento 1, Santa Clara County 4, Mountain View 1, Sunnyvale 1, Ventura County 1.

The inventors of the alphabet could not have foreseen the odd uses to which their signs and symbols would some day be put: how a man might read to take his mind off a mortgage, to make a journey seem shorter, to kill ennui, to rest the mind after an emotional storm, or to lull himself to sleep at night. If you would develop powers, read not often merely to pass the time, for listless reading breeds a poor memory.

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